

Grant & Praed. In the whole southern Congo the Larks of this group seem closely restricted to open plains of special character, so that they have only rarely been collected. *M. a. occidentalis* occupies a fairly large area in south-western Angola, and extends northward along the dry coast at least to Lobito Bay. Whether it reaches the Congo mouth I cannot say, and no specimen I have yet seen of *M. occidentalis* shows any approach to the new *M. malbranti*.

Notes on Pipits of the *Anthus richardi* Group and a new Race of Waxbill from Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. C. M. N. WHITE sent the two following notes :—

1. The Races of *Anthus richardi* Vieillot in South and Central Africa.

I have recently examined some 200 skins of this Pipit from the area between the Cape Province and the Katanga and Nyasaland, and the present notes on the races in this area are the result of studying this material. The following races are considered recognizable.

ANTHUS RICHARDI RUFULOIDES Roberts.

Distribution.—Cape Province to Natal, Zululand, Swaziland, and Southern Portuguese East Africa, Basutoland, Transvaal, Orange Free State, Bechuanaland north to the Chobe River, South-west Africa except Ovampoland, Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia at Kalomo and Mazabuka.

In the large series of over 100 birds examined there is some variation which can be associated with geographical distribution but not sufficiently consistently to justify the naming of further races. The general aspect of the upperside is light sandy olive-brown with moderately well defined dark centres; Natal birds average darker and redder above, whilst those from the dry western Cape Province tend to be paler and more sandy above; similar pallid birds occur in the dry country of Zululand and southern Portuguese East Africa. Birds from the Transvaal on the other hand average darker above. In Bechuanaland, and particularly in South-west Africa, the populations tend to be colder and greyer on the upperside. Stresemann (Orn. Mon. 1938, pp. 149-151) uses *A. r. bocagei* Nicholson for birds from Windhuk, Quickborn and Omaruru, but in my opinion birds from these areas cannot be safely separated from the variable aggregate of *A. r. rufuloides*.

He also named from Erongo Mountain *Anthus hoeschi*. This was said to have the wing emargination of the *A. richardi* group but to be redder, less grey above, and more tawny below than Damaraland

A. richardi and to be larger (unique type female with wing 96 mm.), and to have the pale spot on the tail confined to the outer pair of feathers and pale isabelline in colour. If the type were a male it would be similar in size to *A. r. rufuloides* and none of the colour characters seem to be of any value. I regard it as a probable synonym of *A. r. rufuloides*. (One hundred and fifteen examined.)

ANTHUS RICHARDI LICHENYA Vincent.

Distribution.—Nyasaland to the Eastern Province of Northern Rhodesia; birds from Kalomo and Mazabuka and from Southern Rhodesia are somewhat intermediate between this and the last race.

This race differs from *A. r. rufuloides* in being rather darker above, the dark feather-centres darker and more pronounced and the underside more strongly washed with reddish fawn. Variation is considerable, as is well illustrated in a fine series of fourteen collected by E. L. Button at Lundazi, Northern Rhodesia. (Twenty examined.)

ANTHUS RICHARDI KATANGÆ Chapin.

Distribution.—The Katanga area of the Belgian Congo and adjacent part of Northern Rhodesia from Ndola to Mwinilunga.

This is altogether darker than the preceding races, the upperside being colder and more olive fawn, the edges of the wing-coverts more ochre, less rufous, and the underside strongly washed with ochraceous and less reddish than the preceding forms. (Ten examined.)

***Anthus richardi lwenarum*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Differs from *A. r. katangæ* Chapin in the colour of the upperside, which is altogether colder and greyer, the rump very markedly so; underside as in *A. r. katangæ*.

Distribution.—North-west Northern Rhodesia from Balovale south at least to Mongu.

Type.—In my collection. Male adult collected at Balovale, Northern Rhodesia on 23 October, 1943. (Twenty-two examined.)

ANTHUS RICHARDI BOCAGEI Nicholson.

Distribution.—Ovampoland to South-west Angola; as a migrant recorded from the Balovale district of Northern Rhodesia in July.

This is a very striking race, being a pale whitish sandy colour above and very pallid below, with the breast-spotting only lightly indicated.

The evidence suggests that this form may be somewhat migratory, for one example from Balovale is identical and another very close to it. These birds were collected in July and had the gonads extremely small,

whilst local birds at that time were beginning to enlarge appreciably. (Five examined.)

Note.—The *Anthus richardi* group provides an interesting cline which may be arranged in the following sequence of races: *A. r. rufuloides*, *A. r. lichenya*, *A. r. katangæ*, *A. r. lwenarum*, *A. r. rufuloides* (greyer types common in South-west Africa); *A. r. bocagei*, however, falls outside the cline on present knowledge, but material from the country between south-west Angola and the Mashi country of Northern Rhodesia may reveal the continuation of the cline there also. In making comparisons I have used only fresh plumaged birds and avoided specimens which are abraded or bleached or stained. Within the cline proper it is evident that there is a tendency to form local populations, at any rate in the range of *A. r. rufuloides*, and there is some suggestion that these are associated with climate, the paler populations occurring in the drier areas and the darker in the more humid areas. It follows, therefore, that good series of this Pipit must be examined in defining the races of it to avoid misleading non-geographical variation. Single specimens of one race can be matched with examples of other races, especially in the case of *A. r. rufuloides* and *A. r. lichenya*.

2. A new Race of *Lagonosticta*.

***Lagonosticta senegala dilutior*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Differs from *L. s. rendalli* Hartert in having the centre of the crown and the upperside much paler and greyer, without the warm olive-brown tinge of *L. s. rendalli*. The flanks, lower abdomen and under tail-coverts differ in a similar manner.

Distribution.—So far known from the Balovale district of Northern Rhodesia.

Type.—In my collection. Male collected at Balovale, Northern Rhodesia, on December 7, 1944.

Remarks.—The pallo of the new race is equally marked when compared with the juvenile plumage, that of *L. s. dilutior* being much paler than the juvenile of *L. s. rendalli*. Five examples of *L. s. dilutior* examined.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following six notes:—

(1) On the Validity of *Capella nigripennis angolensis* (Bocage), Journ. Ac. Sc. Lisboa, 1868, p. 49: Huilla, southern Angola.

In 'The Ibis', 1945, p. 465, Mr. C. M. N. White has shown that this